Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/WE:WPKELLY:MJK APPROVED BY EUR - MR. LAINGEN DESIRED DISTRIBUTION EB

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O 030000Z JUL 75 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: BGEN, PO

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SUBJECT: TORRINGTON DEVELOPMENTS

FROM LAINGEN FOR OKUN

1. TORRINGTON PRESIDENT RAY O'CONNELL, ACCOMPANIED
BY MANUFACTURING MANAGER ASHMEAD AND WASHINGTON REPRESENTATIVE TUCKER CALLED ON ME JULY 1 TO DISCUSS
COMPANY'S DIFFICULTIES IN PORTUGAL. O'CONNELL MADE IT
CLEAR THAT TORRINGTON DOES NOT WANT TO CLOSE ITS PORTUGUESE SUBSIDIARY, BUT MAY BE FORCED TO DO SO BY GOP'S
FAILURE TO ENFORCE ITS OWN LAWS. WE SAID DEPT. SHARES
TORRINGTON CONCERN OVER GOP-AUTHORIZED WITHDRAWAL OF FUNDS
FROM FROZEN COMPANY ACCOUNT. WE REVIEWED
HISTORY OF REPEATED REPRESENTATIONS BY EMBASSY LISBON
IN THIS CASE, INCLUDING DIRECT CONTACT WITH PRIME MINISTER
AND WITH OTHER CABINET MEMBERS. I TOLD O'CONNELL THAT
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WE WOULD CALL IN PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR TO PROTEST AGAIN

TREATMENT OF TORRINGTON AND THAT WE WOULD INSTRUCT EMBASSY LISBON TO MAKE SIMILAR PROTEST TO GOP.

2. ON JULY 2 TORRINGTON INFORMED US THAT A NEW MEETING HAS BEEN SCHEDULED FOR 4:00 P.M. LISBON TIME, JULY 3.

BECAUSE OF BROAD RANGE OF PARTICIPANTS IN THAT MEETING (COMPANY, COMPANY ATTORNEY, COPCON REPRESENTATIVES, AFM REPRESENTATIVES, WORKERS' COMMISSION, MINISTRY OF LABOR AND U.S. COMMERCIAL ATTACHE), TORRINGTON IS INCLINED TO BELIEVE THAT THE GOP IS FINALLY MOVING TOWARD A RESOLTUION OF THIS THREE-MONTH O GJK\$7W#46#A@7"

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Message Attributes

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